

3444 N. E. 16th Avenue
Portland, OR 97212
May 14, 1999

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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket #98N-1038

To whom it may concern:

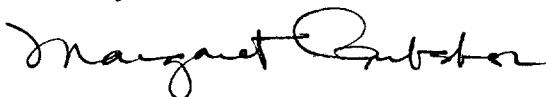
As a consumer, I favor the recommendations by the Center for Science in the Public Interest regarding labeling of irradiated foods. I want all foods that have been treated by irradiation, and all foods containing ingredients that have been irradiated, to be clearly labeled. I do not want to buy or use them. Among other things, irradiation presents the disadvantage of altering the texture, taste, nutritional value and chemical composition of foods. Furthermore, widespread use of irradiation will expose the American public to a new set of nuclear dangers; existing food irradiation facilities, I understand, have a frightening record of accidents and other safety incidents.

To the extent they are permitted, irradiated foods must be clearly labeled, e.g., "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation" so that consumers who do not want them can avoid buying them. Under no circumstances should the word "pasteurized" be used on the labels. Irradiation is not pasteurization, an entirely different process with which I am quite familiar; my husband and I were once in the milk processing business.

Instead of irradiation, we need clean and safe foods, which means enforcing sanitary requirements on all food producers, including those based in foreign countries where sanitary conditions do not necessarily match those we expect in the U.S. Much of the supposed need for irradiation has arisen as a result of the spread of giant farm operations and from meat and poultry producers whose unsanitary feedlots and chicken-raising facilities are causing other health problems as well, e.g., the pollution of water supplies.

I urge you to extend the comment period past the May 18 cutoff date since too little information about this proposed change has been disseminated to the American public.

Sincerely,



Margaret Gribskov

98N 1038

C2308

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